



Training Requirements for Certification as a Level I Trainer (“Within Program Trainer”)

These requirements were developed by the PCIT International Training Task Force in collaboration with the PCIT International Board of Directors. This document should be considered “dynamic” in that the training and certification requirements will evolve as new research arises in intervention, training, and dissemination. These requirements represent what PCIT experts consider to be the minimum training and skill qualifications necessary for a Level I Trainer.

I. Definition

- A. Scope of Level I Trainership.** Level I Trainers are individuals who have received such PCIT training as to be qualified to teach and supervise therapists at their own program or agency, with a scope of trainership that is limited to their physical location or site.
- B. Limitations of Level I Trainership.** Level I Trainers have not documented the experience or expertise to conduct large-scale trainings or to train therapists not under their direct, live supervision for PCIT cases. Level I Trainers have not documented the experience or expertise to train other Level I Trainers unless they are assisting a Level II or Master Trainer.

II. Training Requirements of Level I Trainers

- A. Graduate Education.** To apply for status as a Level I Trainer, an applicant must demonstrate appropriate graduate education. Specifically, an applicant must meet both criteria 1 and 2, OR criterion 3 to be eligible for Level I Trainer status:

1. Have a master’s degree or higher, or the international equivalent of a master’s degree, in a mental health field

AND

2. Be an independently licensed mental health service provider (for example, licensed psychologist, licensed marital and family therapist, licensed practicing counselor, licensed clinical social worker, etc.).

OR

3. Be a psychology doctoral student on predoctoral internship or a psychology trainee completing postdoctoral fellowship, and treating families under the supervision of the predoctoral internship or postdoctoral site.

B. Case Experience

1. Caseload Requirement. The Level I Trainer applicant must have served as a therapist for a minimum of four PCIT cases to graduation criteria as defined by the 2011 PCIT Protocol (Eyberg & Funderburk, 2011). On at least three of those cases, the Level I Trainer applicant must have been the primary therapist (i.e., lead therapist or equal co-therapist).
2. Recency Requirement. At the time of the application, the Level I Trainer applicant must have served as a primary therapist or supervisor on at least two PCIT cases within the previous 2 years.

C. Certified PCIT Therapist: Before applying to become a Level I Trainer, an applicant must have met all requirements of a Certified PCIT Therapist, including completion of a minimum of two cases to graduation criteria under the consultation of a PCIT Trainer. The applicant may not begin training to become a Level I Trainer until these requirements as a Certified PCIT Therapist have been completed.

D. Level I Trainer Course: Certified PCIT Therapists intending to apply for Level I Trainer status must complete the following training experiences:

1. A minimum of 8 hours of a Level I Trainer Course with a Master Trainer or Level II Trainer that occurs *before* beginning other Level I Trainer requirements. The 8 hours of training should emphasize the Level I Trainer applicant's provision of supervision to others and may be conducted via didactic training, a mentorship model (e.g., the Level I Trainer applicant serving as a co-facilitator with a Master Trainer or Level II Trainer during a therapist training workshop), or any combination of the two.
2. The Level I Trainer applicant must also receive follow-up supervision/consultation from a Master Trainer or Level II Trainer that occurs continuously over the course of at least 12 months and has a frequency of at least once a month contact. The Level I Trainer applicant's oversight from the Master Trainer or Level II Trainer may include co-consultation with the Level 1 Trainer and their therapist-trainee or telephone/video conference consultation with the Level I Trainer applicant, at the discretion of the Master Trainer or Level II Trainer.
 - a. Case Experience. While under the supervision/consultation of a Master Trainer or Level II Trainer, the Level I Trainer applicant must complete provision of supervision to at least one therapist-in-training. Specifically, the Level 1 Trainer applicant must supervise a therapist-in-training to complete at least one PCIT case to graduation criteria.

b. Skill Review.

- i. Level I Trainer applicants must have their supervision sessions observed by a Master Trainer or Level II Trainer. Observations may be conducted in real time (e.g., live or online/telehealth) or through video recording.
- ii. To assess the Level I Trainer applicant's skill in the provision of supervision, the Master Trainer or Level II Trainer will observe the following sessions in which the Level I Trainer applicant provides supervision to a therapist-in-training:
 - a. CDI Coaching (ideally the first CDI coaching session), and
 - b. PDI Coaching (ideally the first PDI coaching session)
- iii. The Master Trainer or Level II Trainer will provide written feedback on the content and style of the Level I Trainer applicant's competence in supervision and will determine whether additional session observations are necessary to document adequate skill for the Level I Trainer applicant.

E. Level I Trainer Competency Requirements

1. The evidence for the Level I Trainer applicant's competence should include an assessment of their provision of supervision to a therapist-in-training, as observed by the Master Trainer or Level II Trainer in a real-time (e.g., live or online/telehealth) or prerecorded setting.
2. The Master Trainer or Level II Trainer will be asked to evaluate the Level I Trainer applicant's competency in:
 - a. Attending to core elements of the 2011 PCIT Protocol with fidelity, and
 - b. Maintaining a working alliance with the therapist-trainee through sensitive and effective methods of training

III. Application Requirements

- A.** The applicant must be a Certified PCIT Therapist *before* being eligible to apply for status as a Level I Trainer.
- B.** Following successful Certification as a PCIT Therapist, the Level I Trainer applicant must complete a Level I Trainer Course provided by a Master Trainer or Level II Trainer and document receiving subsequent consultation/supervision from a Master Trainer or Level II Trainer for at least 12 months.
- C.** Upon completion of a Level I Trainer Course and subsequent consultation/supervision from a Master Trainer or Level II Trainer, an applicant for Level I Trainer status must complete the Level I Trainer Application (available from PCIT International Certified Trainers or at PCIT International Certified Level I Trainer workshops). (A list of PCIT Certified Trainers can be found at www.pcit.org.)



- D. The Level I Trainer applicant must also submit a letter of recommendation to PCIT International from their Master Trainer or Level II Trainer that provides evidence of:
 - 1. Completion of a Level I Trainer Course
 - 2. At least 12 months of follow-up consultation with a Master Trainer or Level II Trainer, and
 - 3. Evidence of competence in training other PCIT Therapists within their program according to the 2011 PCIT Protocol.
- E. Final decisions about certification of Level I Trainers will be made by the PCIT International Board of Directors.

IV. Responsibilities of Certified Level I Trainers

- A. Follow the most current PCIT Training Requirements in the training of PCIT Therapists. The Training Requirements are disseminated by the PCIT International Training Task Force and posted on the PCIT International website (www.pcit.org).
- B. Train PCIT Therapists using the 2011 PCIT Protocol and 2013 Clinical Manual for DPICS-IV as disseminated by PCIT International.
- C. Remain active in PCIT service delivery either by providing PCIT to families directly or by providing supervision to PCIT Therapists within their agency or program.
- D. Promote PCIT to both professional and lay communities.
- E. Remain current in PCIT research by activities such as attending conferences, co-leading a face-to-face Initial Training for Therapists led by a Master Trainer or Level II Trainer, conducting PCIT research, presenting research at conferences, writing articles, or reading the research literature.
- F. Level I Trainers are required to obtain at least 6 hours of PCIT Continuing Education credit every 2 years through educational activities sponsored by the PCIT International Task Force on Continuing Education. PCIT International is an APA-approved CE sponsor and provides continuing PCIT education through its online educational and conference programming.

V. Maintaining Certification

- A. **Certification Period:** Level I Trainers are certified for 2 years from the beginning date listed on their PCIT Level I Trainer Certificate.
- B. **Re-Certification:** Certification as a PCIT Level I Trainer is renewable every 2 years. To renew, Level I Trainers must submit a brief application for re-certification and document successful completion of 6 hours of PCIT Continuing Education in programs of learning that have been preauthorized by PCIT International.